



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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March 5, 2013

In Reply Refer To:
5400 (CA930) P

EMS TRANSMISSION: 3/5/13
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2013-012
Expires: 09/30/2014

To: All BLM CA District and Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Disposal of Forest Products and Other Vegetative Resources

Program Area: Forests and Woodlands Management, Plant Conservation

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum provides direction in three areas concerning the disposal of forest and vegetative products: 1) Disposal of forest products including minimum appraised prices; 2) Policy guiding road maintenance funds; and 3) Policy concerning free use.

Policy/Action:

1. The current policy for the sale of vegetative resources is found in [Washington Office Information Bulletin 2012-097](#) and CFR 5420.0-6. This policy states that all timber or other vegetative resources to be sold shall be appraised and in no case shall be sold at less than the appraised value. Other vegetative resources is considered to be "all vegetative material that is not normally measured in board feet, but can be sold or removed from public lands by means of the issuance of a contract or permit." The purpose of this memorandum is to set the minimum price of which some of these products can be sold (see attachment 1). These prices should be considered the state's minimum values only and may be adjusted upward when the specific Field Office appraisal justifies an increase.

The local forest/vegetative products appraiser may establish an appraised value by using 10 percent of the local market selling price for low valued products such as, but not limited to, firewood, posts, poles, nuts, berries, cones, transplants, and boughs. For higher valued products, such as sawtimber, an analytical, transaction evidence, or comparable sales appraisal must be used. The appraisal method based on comparable sales data is the preferred method. All product appraisals must be documented in the official case file for the project.

2. The following is the policy concerning the collection, deposit, and use of Road Maintenance Funds for forest and other vegetative products disposed of from BLM administered lands within the State of California.

A. Collection of Road Maintenance Funds

Road maintenance funds may be collected for all vegetative products sold. The road maintenance fee collected is 20 percent of the total product value (rounded to the closest dollar). Examples: A two cord firewood contract sold at \$5.00 per cord would have \$2.00 deposited into the road maintenance account; a \$5.00 Christmas tree tag would have \$1.00 deposited into the road maintenance account. Road maintenance funds are in addition to the product value (i.e., a \$10 firewood contract with a \$2 road maintenance charge equals a \$12 total contract value).

B. Deposits of Road Maintenance Funds

Road maintenance funds are to be deposited into the L91200000 road maintenance fee account. Those funds deposited come back to the office that deposited the funds minus a surcharge that is taken off to manage the account.

C. Use of Road Maintenance Funds (L91200000)

1. The functional area L91200000 funds are derived primarily from the sale of forest/vegetative products, and are only to be used for the repair or maintenance of roads that service forest/vegetative product harvest areas.
 2. The L91200000 road maintenance functional area is to be managed by the Field Office Forester/Forestry Program Lead.
 3. The Field Office Forester/Forestry Program Lead will annually prioritize any forest product access roads requiring maintenance and provide the list to the appropriate management staff in a timely manner.
3. The BLM policy for Free Use of timber and vegetative materials is found in [Washington Office Information Bulletin 2012-097](#) and BLM Manual 5500. That policy states that Non-Sale Disposal or Free Use Permits are not to be used except in the circumstances limited to: qualified Alaskans and mining claimants, not for profit associations or corporations, and Federal, State and local government agencies, when it can be demonstrated that such disposal will also benefit management of the public lands. In these circumstances, quantity is extremely limited and may not be for commercial use.
 - A. For some products a reasonable amount may be obtained for personal use without a permit. The reasonable amount of these products not requiring a permit is defined in attachment 2.
 - B. The only form authorized for issuing free use permits is BLM Form 5510-1, Free Use Application and Permit.

- C. Free use permits issued to governmental units have no dollar limit per calendar year, but the vegetative materials must be used for a public project.
- D. Free use permits issued to non-profit organizations have a dollar limit of \$100 worth of vegetative material during any one (1) calendar year.
- E. The time limit or expiration time for any free use permit may not exceed six (6) months from the effective date of the permit.
- F. Under no circumstances will the products obtained under a free use permit be sold or bartered.
- G. The District Manager has the authority to issue free use permits.

Timeframe: Effective immediately.

Budget Impact: None.

Background: This provides up to date guidance for the state concerning the sales of forest and other vegetative products. Updated guidance is necessary in order to provide for a statewide standardized sales program.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: This IM provides for establishment of a minimum acceptable price schedule for commonly used forest/vegetative products from California BLM lands. Additional guidance may be found in H-5400-2 Special Forest Products Procedures Handbook.

Signed by:
Angie Lara
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachments

- 1 – Minimum Price List (1 p)
- 2 – Reasonable Amounts for Personal Use not Requiring a Permit (1 p)

Product	Unit of Measure	Minimum Price
Fuelwood: 1. Softwood 2. Hardwood 3. Pre-cut/Stacked	Cord	1. \$5.00 2. \$10.00 3. \$30.00
Post and Poles: 1. Line and Corner (7-8 ft) 2. Poles (standard – 16 ft) 3. Poles (other size option)	Number (each) Number (each) Lineal Foot	1. \$0.40 2. \$0.50 3. \$0.05
Fence Stays	Number (each)	\$0.10
Woody Biomass (limbs, tops, etc.)	Green Ton	\$0.05
Christmas Trees	Number (each)	\$5.00
Wildings (Live transplants) 1. Up to 6 feet in height 2. 6 to 10 feet 3. Over 10 feet	Number (each)	1. \$3.00 2. \$6.00 3. \$10.00
Burls	Pound	\$0.20
Pine Nuts	Pound	\$0.25
Dry Cones (no seed in cone)	Bushel	\$0.20
Mushrooms (all species) 1. Gallon Rate 2. Day Rate 3. Weekly Rate 4. Monthly Rate	Gallon 3 days 1 week 1 month	\$0.25 \$15.00 \$25.00 \$100.00
Berries (all species) 1. Gallon Rate 2. Day Rate 3. Weekly Rate 4. Monthly Rate	Gallon 3 days 1 week 1 month	\$0.25 \$15.00 \$25.00 \$100.00
Boughs	Pound	\$0.05
Floral and Greenery: 1. Beargrass 2. Greenery 3. Stems (creosote, etc)	Pound Pound Number (each)	1. \$0.20 2. \$0.10 3. \$0.10
Mosses	Pounds	\$0.35

- Notes for the above table:
- Burls – If the tree will be killed, sell entire tree by MBF
- Various products – Above rates apply to commercial and personal use sales.
- Biomass – The sale and utilization of biomass is highly encouraged throughout the state. Burning on site will be the last alternative.
- Wildings – includes any vegetative material that is being purchased for transplanting. Cactus, yucca, shrubs, trees, etc., are included in this category.

Product	Unit of Measure	Amount Per Year
Firewood	N/A	Unlimited for camping on Public Lands
Pine Nuts	Pounds	25
Berries – All Species	Gallon	5 per Species
Mushrooms – All Species	Pounds	5 per day
Cones – With or without Seed	Bushel	5
Greenery	Pound	10
Moss	Pound	10

Note for above table: To only be used for personal use. Personal use means use other than for sale, barter, trade, or obtaining profit.